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TO CORRESPONDENTS.
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Subscribers when writing to have the address of their paper changed MUST give the old as well as the new address.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29, 1905.

High Prices for Oranges.

The latest reports from New York show record breaking prices for oranges.

The last car of California Valencias sold in New York on November 15 for a total of \$3,657.10. Six boxes of 112 sizes averaged \$14.50, 37 boxes of 126 size averaged \$14.37, 1-2, 113 boxes of fancy averaged \$11.92, choice grade \$8.58, and 107 boxes of standard brought \$6.12, 1-2 cents per box.

The Trade papers call attention to the fact that these prices were realized in the face of an unusual supply of Florida oranges the best of which sold for not over \$3.00 per box.

New California Navels are now in the market in New York. The first car was sold on Monday, November 13, at an average of \$2.42 per box. On Wednesday, November 15, two more cars of new Navels were sold, one brought \$3.10 and the other \$3.12. All were reported to be pale, green and not fit for market.

The Fungus and the White Fly.

In making up matter for this week's paper we put in an item from the Orange County Reporter, about the meeting of the Horticultural Commission of Orange county. After the paper was all made up and we were just ready to send it off, we received an account of the meeting, from one of the Commissioners. This gives little different account, not contradicting, but rather supplementing and completing that given by the paper. By reading them both you will have a good idea of the condition and prospects of the orange groves in that section. It would be well if other parts of the

state, where the white fly abounds, would get to work as vigorously as the people of Orange county.

A Good Washing Machine.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the Boss Washing Machine Co., which has been running in our columns for several weeks. It is well known that, as a rule, professional wash-women do not take kindly to new-fangled machines, but in this case the wash-woman professed to be much pleased with the Boss and said that it was easier to wash with than washing by hand on a board. We consider this a good recommend, as we know that this same woman refused to use a machine of another make, saying that it was too hard to turn.

If you are in need of any labor-saving help in your laundry, we advise you to send for the circular of the Boss Washing Machine.

Hibiscus Sabdariffa.

This plant is usually known in Florida as Jamaica sorrel, though why it should have received that name we do not understand, as it is a native of tropical Asia and Africa. We neglected to mention this in our notes about fruit last week. Of course it is not a fruit, strictly speaking, yet it is used as a fruit and should be classed with them. For the benefit of any who may not be acquainted with this plant, we will say that it is largely used for jelly, and is said to be much like cranberries. We are not prepared to endorse this statement, however, it makes an acid jelly which is much relished by many, but we could never see any resemblance to the flavor of the cranberries. The part used is the thickened calyx, around the seed-pods, some days after blooming. They may be stewed and used as fruit or be canned for winter use, or they may be dried uncooked and kept in that way and when cooked will be found as good as the fresh ones. It is a curious fact that no matter how early the plants are set out they do not bloom until their regular season, which is in the fall. Plants set out in June will bear as early as those set in April. The only advantage gained by early planting is that the plants will be larger and, of course, will yield a larger crop.

In the northern part of the state the season is so short that they seldom ripen seed. But seed is cheap and all who like an acid jelly should try the Jamaica sorrel.

Dairying in Florida.

We have often urged our Florida farmers to go into dairying. There are various branches of the business, such as selling the milk, making butter and making cheese. The locality in which your farm is situated must have a great influence in deciding which one will be the most profitable for you.

Where you are within reach of a market for selling fresh milk, at a fair price, that will usually be more profitable, as there is so much less work connected with it. By furnishing certified milk in sealed bottles, you can generally get a higher price, which means larger profit.

In starting get the best stock that you can. If not able to buy pure-bred stock all round, get some of the best native cows that you can find and a

full-blooded male and breed up as fast as possible. You will be surprised to find how much a good native cow can be improved by good feed. Save the best of heifer calves for breeding, but sell all the males. Do not be deluded into thinking that a grade male will do because he looks about as well as many of the thorough-breds. They cannot be depended upon to reproduce their own good qualities, their progeny is almost sure to go back towards the native stock.

This week you will find, elsewhere, an interesting account of what is being done in Georgia. Better look it up and read it carefully.

A Child Labor Law.

The need of a stringent law against the employment of children in factories, etc., has been urged throughout the country. Some of the states have passed such laws. There are not so many factories in this state as in some others but such a law would be very desirable for the benefit of the children that are employed in the factories we have. The last session of the California legislature passed a law which the last number of the California Fruit Grower prints in full. We would like to quote it all, but it would occupy too much space. We will give a brief synopsis of its general features, hoping that it may attract attention to the subject and lead to so much discussion that the next legislature will be induced to pass a law having similar provisions.

Section 1. Provides that no minor under 18 years of age shall be employed in laboring in any mechanical or mercantile or manufacturing establishment more than 9 hours in one day, except when needed to make repairs to keep the plant in running order. Or when a different apportionment of hours is made for the purpose of making a shorter day's work one day in the week, but the hours of labor must not exceed 54 in one week.

Section 11. No minor under 16 shall be employed in these establishments between the hours of 10 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning.

The same section, also provides that no child under 14 years of age shall be employed in such establishments as were mentioned before, nor in any hotel, restaurant, nor in the carrying of messages or packages of merchandise. Except that it is provided that, in case the parents are sick and unable to work, certain authorities may give a limited permit for children over 12 years of age to do such work. And also, that during the regular school vacation permits may be issued, to children over 12, to work during the vacation.

No child under 16 is to be allowed to work during school term unless he or she can read English at sight and write legibly and correctly simple English sentences, or is a regular attendant at a regular night school.

Section III. Provides for the certificates, forms and directions for issuing and keeping them on file where they can be seen at any time by the inspectors.

Section IV. Provides the penalties.

Section V. Provides that nothing in this law shall prohibit the employment of minors at agricultural, horticultural, viticultural or domestic labor when the schools are not in session or out of school hours.

Section VI. Provides for the enforcement of the law.

Is there anything in this that is at all objectionable? It seems to us a very desirable law for any state, and that it would be well to agitate the subject until our people are educated up to the point of demanding the passage of the law by our next legislature.

Answer to Correspondent.

Editor Florida Agriculturist:

In regard to the moon what is meant by the sign of the moon as turned up or down and what relation has the different signs to the Zodiac.

J. C. M.

Cumberland Islands.

The above inquiry was referred to Mr. Berlin H. Wright and he answers as follows:

"The sign of the moon turned up or down is used to indicate the times when the moon is highest or lowest. To illustrate use: In September 1905, the moon will be lowest September 7th; highest September 21st. Hence from the 7th to the 21st the moon will be running high, and until the 7th she will be 'running low.' Now certain classes of farmers, especially the Dutch of Pa., set much importance by these data in their farming operations.

There is no relationship or connection with the sign of the Zodiac more than indicating where the moon is at such a time."

Courtenay, Merritt's Island, Fla.,

Dec. 23, 1904.

E. O. Painter Co.,

Jacksonville, Fla.,

Dear Sirs:

I have been 10 days late in check. I wish 4 tons more of No. 1 and one ton of Die Back but will not put in order until I get more returns.

My oranges are reported as being the only ones arriving in N. Y. in excellent condition.

Yours truly,

M. S. Sams.

The Fungus Remedy for the White Fly.

Editor Florida Agriculturist:

On November 7th the Horticultural Commissioners for Orange county held a meeting in the courthouse at Orlando to discuss the plan of campaign against the white fly (*Aleyrodes citricola*).

All the sprays and insecticides that have been hitherto used to any extent were passed in review, but none of them seemed sufficiently certain and efficacious to justify the Commissioners in making their use compulsory upon all owners of infested groves. The tent treatment with hydrocyanic acid gas leaves nothing to be desired for thoroughness in killing every insect upon every tree so treated, but expense of applying this method on a large scale almost if not quite, prohibitory.

The subject of the natural enemies of the white fly was gone over carefully. The red *Aschersonia* fungus undoubtedly destroys myriads of the pest in its larval (scale) stage and though the hopes of the Lee and Manatee county growers that it would exterminate the white fly were disappointed, it certainly is a very important check upon it and it is easily established in new localities by simply pinning leaves upon which colonies of the fungus exist, upon the trees infested by the fly. A number of leafy branches of orange, grapefruit and tangerines from the shed of Mr. Mead, one of the commissioners, were shown on which every white fly scale had been changed to a bright red mass of spores of this fungus. A year ago a few similar leaves had been brought from Fort Myers by Mr. J. H. Lee, county commissioner, who went there to investigate white fly conditions. These leaves were pinned about in the infested trees in Mr. Mead's shed.

The rains and dews seem to slowly disintegrate the spore-masses of the fungus and the spores are so fine that probably they are carried about by every breeze.